

September 2004

Gail A. Kantak
IDNR Fire Supervisor
2404 South Duff Ave.
Ames, IA 50010

TO: FIRE PROTECTION AGENCIES IN IOWA

Phone: 515/ 233-1161
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RE: Volunteer Fire Assistance Program - Grant Rules

Iowa has finally received our Fiscal Year **2004** Grant funds for the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program as authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978. The main features of the program are:

1. Key objectives are saving lives and protecting property in rural areas.
2. Volunteer Fire Assistance Program will pay 50 percent of the cost (not to exceed a maximum of \$3500), with the local agencies also paying 50 percent. Local fire department funds **must** be available when the application is made.
3. **Applications Deadline: December 15, 2004.**
4. Allocated funds may only be used for equipment identified in the application form. Applications for purchases not identified within this application will not be eligible.
5. Priority will be given to: (1) applicants who submit completed 2004 Annual Wildfire Surveys, (2) acres of state land protected; (3) communities which have not received funds under this program in the previous funding period, (4) areas of greatest need.
6. The fire department must be registered with the State Fire Marshal's office and must file all incident reports in a timely manner.
7. Only communities under 10,000 population qualify.
8. All applications **must** be signed by the Fire Chief and the head of the local government agency (i.e., mayor, chairperson of the township trustees, or chairperson of the benefited fire district or fire agency).
9. All applications **must** complete and submit with the application an IRS Form W-9 :Federal Tax ID # (this may belong to the fire department or the city).
10. No applications for less than \$150 (\$75 matching funds) will be approved.
11. Expenditures made between **October 1, 2003, and June 30, 2005**, will qualify. **Projects must be completed by July 31, 2005. All requests for reimbursement must be submitted and postmarked by July 31, 2005.**

All applications for funds must be made on the enclosed form titled USFS Federal Financial Assistance — Volunteer Fire Assistance(VFA) Application 2004. See Specifications for approved items for assistance in completing your application, complete both sides of the application.

GSA Federal Purchasing System – Activity Code Request

The General Services Administration (GSA) – Federal Supply Service offers wildfire protection equipment and supplies to federal, state and municipal fire agencies and other organizations who operate under formal agreements with the US Forest Service. GSA's objectives are to:

- Provide opportunities for advanced procurement
- Assist in the standardization of wildfire protection equipment and supplies
- Effect savings through consolidated purchasing
- Provide for the direct distribution of items to field units

The IDNR Forestry Bureau as an affiliate of the US Forest Service, through the initiation of a formal memorandum of agreement can assist fire departments in acquiring an activity code that will allow them to make direct purchases of fire fighting gear from the GSA Federal Supply Service. Visit their website at **www.GsaAdvantage.gov**.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Gail A. Kantak,
IDNR Fire Supervisor
Enclosures

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS and IRS W-9 FORMS TO:

Gail Kantak, Fire Supervisor
IDNR Forestry Bureau
2404 South Duff Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50010-8093
(515) 233-1161

APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15, 2004